

Item agreed to.

To provide for repayments to His Majesty's government of expenses incurred in connection with the transportation of Canadian delegation to and from Geneva in connection with first assembly of League of Nations in 1920, \$1,848.56.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: This dates back to 1920; what is the reason?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This happens to be the expenses of three Canadian ministers, my right hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) included, who forgot to pay their accounts to the British government. The British government has sent the bill to us.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is nothing of the kind. The accounts were taken care of in the regular way by the secretaries of the respective ministers. What is the item for?

Mr. BELAND: I do not think the right hon. gentleman was one.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This is the statement I have on the matter:

The High Commissioner's office forwarded an account for £180, being for steamship fares for Hon. Messrs. Calder, Meighen and Rowell and their secretaries, together with the Hon. Messrs. Norris, Martin and Stewart who were at that time Premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Enquiry was had of Messrs. Calder, Meighen and Rowell as to whether or not the amount of £20 each for steamship fares between London and New York had been paid by them and in each case the reply has been in the negative.

Mr. Christie informed me that his recollection was that the provincial premiers were invited by the Ministry of Information of His Majesty's government and that the Dominion government had nothing to do with their visit to England.

Application was accordingly made through the Secretary of State department to the provincial governments of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan for a refund of £20 in each case, and these provinces have forwarded their cheques for the amounts in question. As to the Dominion ministers, there is no doubt that they made the voyage for which a charge is made. They were on official business and the Imperial government has presented the bill.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The explanation is not correct, for I certainly never was asked.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is the statement given by the deputy minister of the department.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Sir Joseph Pope?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes. I am informed the department has a letter from my right hon. friend.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is no such letter from me, for I knew nothing about it. I can not conceive how it could have been omitted. How could they get the return tickets?

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The British government bought the tickets from Liverpool to New York. This relates to item 356. Item 354 is a refund of a similar character to cover the expenses of Sir George Foster, Mr. Rowell and Mr. Doherty from Geneva to London. Apparently they thought they were travelling as guests of the Hospitality League in Britain or His Majesty's Hospitality Fund, but the league rendered the bill to the British government.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There might be an error in England as to who was responsible, but it could not possibly be so as to these tickets, because our secretaries purchased them. I would ask the Prime Minister to be good enough to send me a copy of that letter.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Grant towards the expenses of the International Mathematical Congress to be held in Montreal in 1924. \$25,000.

Mr. SHAW: What are all these congresses, and why are they subsidized by the Canadian government?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The British Association for Advancement of Science and the Mathematical Congress are two of the most important scientific gatherings in the world. They meet in a different country each year, and it has been the custom of all countries to help meet the expenses of the scientific men attending from all parts of the world. I think my right hon. friend opposite had intimated to the British association, and very rightly so, that if they were to meet in Canada in such and such a year, and he were in office, he would give them a grant. The government is taking the same course that my right hon. friend said he would take if in office. The province of Ontario is giving a like amount to the Mathematical Congress.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have some recollection of being advised of the visit of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, but as to the Mathematical Congress I certainly have none.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend is correct; it was to the British scientific association that he gave the promise.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There was no promise. I recall being advised in conversation that they would probably come to Canada. But the British Association for the Advancement of Science is a well-known institution the world over, and undoubtedly its meeting